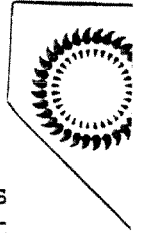


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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SYNOPSIS

When Dave Secrist at San Jacinto and Frank Prunty at Charleston checked their thermometers early on the morning of August 26, 1992, they noted that the low was 10 degrees above zero. When a member of the Clark County Fire Department looked at the maximum thermometer at Laughlin the evening of August 10, 1992, he noted that the mercury had reached 121 degrees that afternoon. Little did any of the persons involved realize that they had logged the lowest and highest August temperatures in recorded Nevada climate history, and both in the same month only two weeks apart! This is a climate rarity. In addition, the ten degree mark is one of the lowest ever recorded in the United States (outside Alaska) in August. These two locations in extreme Northeastern Nevada (San Jacinto), and the extreme South (Laughlin) have been in the record book before. Charleston held the previous August low of 15 degrees, recorded twice, on August 30, 1962 and August 30, 1964. The 50 degree below zero reading at San Jacinto in January 1937 is still the State's lowest. Laughlin had the previous high August record of 120 degrees, set last in 1985. Don't feel too sorry for local residents though, as the mercury climbed 70 degrees on the 26th at San Jacinto to finish with an 80 degree high, while at Laughlin the morning low on the 10th was "only" 86 degrees!

In general, August was a warmer than normal month, and with a few exceptions, drier than usual. In fact, it was the 14th month in a row with warmer than normal readings in Western Nevada, adding another month to the record for consecutive warm months set in July.

With one month to go, 1991-92 water year precipitation totals are below normal in all but Southern Nevada. In the Northeast eleven month totals are 70-90 percent of normal, with 50-60 percent of normal readings along the East Slope of the Sierra Nevada, and 100-200 percent in the South. However, upstream Colorado River totals are only about two-thirds of normal.

TEMPERATURE

For over a year warmer than normal temperatures have been the rule in Nevada. New residents don't really know what "normal" is. August was no exception as departures ranged from near normal in parts of the South, and the Ely and Elko areas, to 3-5 degrees above normal in the Northwest and Far West. It was

record, and the 4th warmest in Las Vegas since records began at the Airport in 1937.

In addition to the records noted earlier the mercury rose to 118 at Boulder Beach, and 117 at Echo Bay, and fell to 17 at Wildhorse Reservoir and 18 at Mountain City. The latter location also was close to the "Diurnal Spread Record," with the temperature rising 72 degrees on the 13th, from a morning low of 23 to the afternoon high of 95! The record for this "overcoat to tank top weather" is 75 degrees (12-87 degrees) set at Deeth on September 21, 1954. Northern Nevada's highest reading was the 109 degrees measured by Allen Farias at Flanigan near Honey Lake.

PRECIPITATION

Thundershowers were the rule with some scattered locations having above normal precipitation for the month, while other spots were missed and had little or none. The wettest reporting site was Mountain City where a thunderstorm dropped 2.73" on the 17th for a new one day record for any month (1.98 fell in one day in June 1968 in this 37 year old record). Other notable one day amounts were 1.15" on the 6th at Searchlight and 1.33 on the 31st at Valley of Fire State Park. In addition, thunderstorms on the 15th brought Verdi .60" in thirty minutes, and .88" in forty-five minutes to Battle Mountain on the 30th.

Dry rain gages were found at such locations as Kings River Valley, Denio, Ft. Bidwell, Amargosa Valley, Beatty, Carson City and the Sleeper Mine's Tailing Pond site.

Some other August precipitation totals were the .94" measured by Ted Hansen at Midas, .53" at the Weaver Ranch near Wellington, and .25" reported by Larry Mayne at Candelaria.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were near normal for August, with 90 percent of the possible hours at Reno (normal = 93%), 88 percent at Las Vegas (normal = 84%), and 82 percent at Ely, and a normal of 81%.

Wind speed averages were also near normal, except well above normal in the South and well below in the East. Peak wind gusts reached 60 mph at Henderson during a thunderstorm on the 30th, with 63 mph at Battle Mountain in another thunderstorm that same day. Denio had some tree and roof damage from 60 mph winds during an August 15th thunderstorm. Sixty-two mph winds, not associated with thunderstorms, were recorded at 9700 foot Slide Mountain on the 21st.

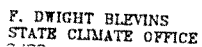
Evaporation was above normal statewide. Some pan water

at Diamond Valley, 9.88" at Fallon, 9.12" at Ruby Lake, 8.95" at the newly installed Caliente pan, and 6.63" at Minden.

NEXT MONTH: A summary of the 1991-92 water year.

John W. James
State Climatologist

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION
AUGUST 1992



NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE
FROM NORMAL (F°)

AUGUST 1992

